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Charles Alden Meranda Architectural Records 1939-1981 DADA 038

Title: Charles Alden Meranda Architectural Records

Creator: Charles Alden Meranda

Inclusive Dates: 1939-1981

Extent: 4.6 cu. ft.

Containers: 7 flat file drawers

Language of Materials: Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation:

Charles Alden Meranda Architectural Records, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Biographical Note:

Charles Alden Meranda (1907-1982) was born in Howard County Indiana. He graduated from Kokomo High School in 1925. His documented course of study was “vocational” as opposed to “General” or “Academic,” and there are no records indicating that Meranda received any additional education beyond this.

Meranda began practicing in 1925 with Thomas McGraw in Kokomo, Indiana. It is likely that his employment with McGraw was short-term as he was listed as a draftsman for Vonnegut Mueller Bohn Architects in Indianapolis in 1928. By 1933, Meranda is listed in City Directories as an estimator and designer for Marietta Manufacturing Co., Indianapolis. Marietta Manufacturing produced a product that was referred to as “vitreous marble,” a pigmented opaque structural glass (comparable to Vitrolite). This material became quite popular, particularly in Art Deco and Art Modern architecture. His exposure to this material during his stint as a designer and estimator for the company, influenced some of his own designs as seen on the facades of both the Rio and Crump theaters. From 1936 until 1939, Meranda served as a draftsman for Stewart-Carey Glass Company of Indianapolis, a company known for their stained glass windows. The June 7, 1943 Kokomo Tribune issue indicates that it was during his period of

time as a draftsman for Stewart-Casey Glass that he designed the window for the Tabernacle Baptistery.

Meranda began practicing privately in 1939 under the firm of Bowers and Meranda at the Board of Trading Building located at 143 Meridian, Indianapolis, Indiana. The firm's partnership only lasted for 1-2 years before dissolution. After this, Meranda continued to practice on his own, still retaining his office at the Board of Trading Building (until approximately 1967). The 1966 City Directory list his firm as Meranda & Associates and in 1967 the firm is listed as Meranda, Campbell, & Meranda though many of the projects in this collection are listed as Meranda Campbell Meranda during the 1940s. The other two partners in this firm were his brother, Robert A. Meranda (1921-2002) and Robert E. Campbell. When Robert Meranda and Robert Campbell joined as partners, the firm moved to 3051 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Meranda retired in 1973 to Rochester, Indiana though the firm still continued to operate as Meranda & Associates, likely under the direction of Robert A. Meranda. Alden Meranda died on July 23, 1982.

Meranda had many notable works including the Flanner House Homes of Indianapolis (c. 1950) which he designed with Leslie Cohn. He also designed a number of theaters including:

Rio Theater (Columbus, IN), 1939
Crump Theater (Columbus, IN), 1941
Artcraft Theater (Franklin, IN) 1948
Gibson Theater (Batesville, Indiana)
Indiana Theater (Bedford, IN), 1950.

Sources:

Nickoll, J.E., *Misc. Compiled Biographical Information*, Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives, Nov. 24, 2013.

Scope and Contents:

This collection consists of architectural drawings and sketches that pertain to 169 projects spanning the period of 1939 to 1981.

The projects in this collection are mostly for private residences and businesses. Other projects in the collection are of banks, warehouses, churches, public buildings, retirement homes, and office buildings. The majority of projects were designed under the firm name of Meranda, Campbell, & Meranda. There are also a number of projects pertaining to War Housing Projects during the period surrounding WWII.

The firm did a number of commissions for the Indiana Bell Telephone Company. Projects related to the Indiana Bell Telephone Company begin in 1947 extended into multiple commissions for additions and alterations to buildings such as the Victor Central Office, Auburn Telephone, Indianapolis Liberty Central Office, Brownsburg Central Office, Frankfort Central Office, Jefferson Building, Central Office, Clinton Central Office, and Fort Wayne Building.

The Meranda Campbell Meranda Firm also does an overwhelming amount of residences and alterations to residences. Over half of the collection consists of residences and double residences that are either for the homeowners themselves or for developers.

Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is open for research.

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Custodial History:

The Charles Alden Meranda Architectural Records were received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from Dick Meranda on 2002/9/10.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Processing Information:

Collection processing completed.

EAD finding aid completed 2018/10/29 by Andrea Eageny and Rebecca Torsell.

Arrangement:

The Charles Alden Meranda Architectural Records are primarily arranged chronologically with minor exceptions.

Controlled Access Headings:

Architecture—Design and plans—Presentation drawings
Architecture—Design and plans—Working drawings
Drawings, architectural (visual works)
Elevation drawings
Architecture, American
Architecture, commercial
Architecture—Indiana—Indianapolis
Buildings, apartment
Buildings, bank
Buildings, commercial
Buildings, religious
Buildings, residential
Houses and homes
Housing authorities
Residential architecture